

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

JUNE

By Roswell F. Connor

On dear old Chi. we can rely,  
It's record can't be beat.  
There's no resort of any sort  
Which has less summer heat.

The coal man smiles and then com-  
piles  
The profits made in June.  
The iceman's sad, for trade's been  
bad,  
He sings a different tune.

From the beach we hear no screech  
Of water nymphs these days.  
They don't go in just yet to swim,  
Long walks are all the craze.

Our B-V-D's just reach the knees,  
They're pretty cool, you bet.  
There's not much charm in sleeve-  
less arm,  
Their purchase we regret.

But why complain, we can remain  
All summer in our flat.  
We need not go to old St. Joe,  
Just stay in our habitat.

**METHODS.**—When the great Ben Franklin was experimenting with his kite and doorkey and had coaxed the electric current down his kite string there were a lot of reactionary, standpat, moss-back dubs standing around ridiculing and laughing, telling him that he was an undesirable citizen, a dreamer, an idealist, flying in the face of Providence and disturbing the fixed order of things, and I presume they told him that he would break up the home, drive capital out of the country and ruin business. Well, Big Ben kept right on sawing wood (metaphorically speaking). He was a genuine progressive and never let ridicule sidetrack him. He knew he had discovered a great principal that would revolutionize the world. We all know what electricity has done for the world. We know that

its possibilities are still unlimited, and thus we find all the way down the ages every step in advancement toward a higher and nobler civilization has been hindered and handicapped by the old, bone-headed reactionary, who lays like a filthy fat hog in his wallow across the pathway of progress, brainlessly squealing, "You can't do it, don't ye know!"

Now I am going to mention one practical method that can be put into operation at once, right here in the city. I am addressing this more especially to the members of the unions. I know what the Socialists will do in this emergency, but you union men are not reliable, from an economic standpoint, to work in your own interests, politically. Your hearts are all right but you are too easily influenced by your old party affiliations, as witnessed and conclusively shown by your vote for judges in the late election, who have double-crossed you in the past and will in the future upon every economic question that comes up between you and the big interests.

Now, do you or do you not want a penny-a-call phone in your home, municipally owned, like your water system, your fire and police departments and your great park system, destined to be the superior of any in the nation? Do you want it, I say? Do you want the phone? **THEN TAKE IT!** You have the chance of a lifetime, and for the sake of your families, **GO TO IT,** like thinking men and women.

Write to, or better still, see your alderman personally and tell him emphatically what you want in regard to the Automatic telephone. Do you think he will dare turn you down in the council? Not on your life! He thinks too much of his job with its perquisites and emoluments. State your position! Don't beg, **DEMAND!**

On the other hand if some of you haven't brain and intellect enough to think and work in the interest of your little boys and girls who will have to